

## 2017-2018 LMGC Horticulture Committee Annual Report

Mary Morrison, Horticulture Chair  
Betsy Massie, Horticulture Vice Chair

The Horticulture Committee organized and presented a seed saver workshop for new LMGC members on September 20, 2017 at the home of Kathy Jones. Betsy Massie led the group in preparing and labeling seed packets using seeds saved from our Depot Garden to exchange with other garden clubs at the Shirley Meneice conference and distribute to our members.

Betsy Massie wrote Hort Hints for our monthly meeting announcement on a variety of topics, including lawn mowing best practices, garden book resources, and spring planting recommendations.

Betsy Massie and Kathy Coward attended the Shirley Meneice Horticulture Conference, "Jewels of the Plains," held in Omaha, Nebraska in September 2017. Highlights included a dinner at Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium where the group heard from Michael Forsberg, a conservation photographer, who presented "Flyover Country - A Photographers 20 Year Journey Through the Heart of North America," a site visit to Glacier Creek Preserve, a 424-acre preserve that includes 140 acres of restored tall grass prairie. The Loveland Garden Club has a Partners for Plants project at this preserve. The conference attendees saw a demonstration by Aimee Hurt and her dog Lucy on Working Dogs for Conservation, a non-profit based in Montana. Betsy reported on the conference at the April member meeting.

The Horticulture Committee spearheaded the submission of the plant Golden Alexander (*Zizia aurea*) for the GCA Freeman Medal for 2018. We received many favorable comments on our submission although our plant was not selected for the national award.

The Horticulture and Conservation committees, together with new and existing LMGC members and under the able supervision of Kathy Jones, conducted our annual garlic mustard pull on May 18, 2018 in Wolsfeld Woods as part of our GCA Partners for Plants project. Approximately 20 members participated and filled more than 30 bags for the DNR to remove. The change in our cleared areas is heartening, with many native wildflowers and ferns returning to the area.

An informative article featuring our annual garlic mustard pull was featured in Minnetonka Monthly magazine for May 2018.